

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 5, lines 8-12, please replace the paragraph beginning “FIG. 1 is a schematic of HIV-1 gp41” with the following paragraph:

FIG. 1 is a schematic of HIV-1 gp41 showing the heptad repeat region 1 (HR1; SEQ ID NO:1) and heptad repeat 2 region (HR2; SEQ ID NO:83) along with other functional regions of gp41. Exemplary amino acid sequences corresponding to HIVIII B HR1 and HR2 are shown for purposes of illustration. The amino acid residues are numbered according to their position in gp160, strain HIVIII B.

On page 5, lines 13-16, please replace the paragraph beginning “FIG. 2 shows a comparison” with the following paragraph:

FIG. 2 shows a comparison of the sequences (SEQ ID NOS:84-118) contained within the HR1 region of HIV-1 gp41 for purposes of illustration, and not limitation, as determined from various laboratory strains and clinical isolates, wherein illustrated are some of the variations in amino acid sequence, as indicated by the single letter amino acid code.